

**CONFIGURABLE PKI ARCHITECTURE****ABSTRACT**

5 A architecture for implementing PKI technology is  
described. Individual processing modules responsive to  
events are initiated. These individual software module  
building blocks, or "beans" are placed and linked together  
in an assembly line-like manner. Each bean is responsive to  
10 particular events and does one particular action in the  
scheme. For example, individual beans are responsive to  
different format PKI requests from a network, and in turn  
generate an event corresponding to that request. The event  
is broadcast to other beans that take the event and perform  
15 some other operation in the defined process. Other beans  
include certificate generators, publishers, manipulators,  
broadcasters to output streams, and also beans that can act  
as boolean branches. When strung together, the beans form a  
cohesive PKI schema. The ability to place beans in the flow  
20 and remove them allows great flexibility in developing PKI  
implementations. Typically, the beans are written in a  
environment and platform neutral manner, such as the Java®  
programming language. Not only may the beans be used to  
build both defined and customized PKI schemas easily, but  
25 the schemas may be spread out among many computing devices.  
Additionally, the use of Java® allows for fast  
implementation of additions to PKI schemas. Therefore, as  
new certificate standards, new formats, or new dissemination  
methods are developed, appropriate beans may be written to  
30 implement these and dropped into place seamlessly.